

Agency Information

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10071-10217

RECORD SERIES : NUMBERED FILES

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 008695

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 54653 Date:
10-23-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM : FBI
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 02/07/1978
PAGES : 4

SUBJECTS :

FBI, STAFF, ADMINISTRATION
OSWALD, LEE, BACKGROUND
GALE, JAMES

DOCUMENT TYPE : SUMMARY

CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified

RESTRICTIONS : 3

CURRENT STATUS : Redact

DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/16/1996

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS : Box 158.

KENNEDY

008695

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

~~SECRET~~

1. Identifying Information:

Name JAMES H. GALE
Address SUITE 414, MOSBY BLDG.
City/State 10560 MAIN ST.
FAIRFAX, VA.
Date of Birth 9-28-21
Social Security 294-01-8383

Date FEB. 7, 1978

Place SAME

Telephone 202 591-5200

M or S _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

2. Physical Description:

Height 6'
Weight 180
Ethnic Group WHITE

Color Eyes BLUE Hair BLOND

Special Characteristics _____

3. Personal History:

a. Present Employment: ATTORNEY

Address SAME

Telephone SAME

b. Criminal Record

1. Arrests _____

2. Convictions _____

4. Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____

Address _____

b. Area frequented: _____

c. Remarks: _____

Investigator HAROLD LEAP & ROBERT GENZMAN

Date FEB. 8, 1978

Form #4-B

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME James H. Gale
 Suite 414, Mosby Bldg.
 Address 10560 Main Street
Fairfax, Virginia

Date 2/7/78 Time 1:00 p.m.
 Place His law office

Interview:

Harold Leap and Robert Genzman interviewed James H. Gale, formerly FBI Assistant Director, Inspection Division, at his law office in Fairfax, Virginia.

Gale was hired as a clerk for the FBI on November 29, 1939. He became an agent on June 21, 1943, and served as Assistant SAC and SAC in Anchorage, and as SAC in Richmond, Cincinnati, Washington field office, and Chicago. In 1963 he became Assistant Director of the Special Investigations Division. He retired on October 1, 1971.

Gale related that on November 23, 1963, J. Edgar Hoover and Clyde Tolson asked him to conduct an inspection of the FBI's handling of the Oswald case prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. In a memo to Tolson dated December 10, 1963, Gale determined that 17 FBI employees should be disciplined for investigative shortcomings. Gale determined that Oswald should have been on the Security Index, although he feels that this would have made no difference in protecting the President. Gale stated that he felt pressured to make

Interviewer Leap

(Signature)

Harold Leap - Robert Genzman

(Name)

Date Transcribed 2/8/78

by mcp
(Ini)

James H. Gale Interview

Page 2

censures, since the Warren Commission would probably want to know what actions had been taken to remedy the shortcomings. Hoover agreed with Gale's findings, and Alan Belmont disagreed.

In a memo to Tolson dated September 30, 1964, Gale recommended additional disciplining of eight of the 17 FBI employees who had previously been disciplined. Gale stated that this "second round" was based on the poor performance of FBI employees as determined by the Warren Commission, causing embarrassment to the FBI.

Gale was asked to explain the following passage from page 5 of his September 30, 1964 memo:

The Bureau by letter to the Commission indicated that the facts did not warrant placing a stop on the passport (of Oswald) as our investigation disclosed no evidence that Oswald was acting under the instructions or on behalf of any foreign government or instrumentality thereof. Inspector feels it was proper at that time to take this "public" position. However, it is felt that with Oswald's background we should have had a stop on his passport, particularly since we did not know definitely whether or not he had any intelligence assignments at that time.

Gale stated that this public position was taken to prevent embarrassing the FBI. With regard to the last sentence of the passage, Gale stated that in light of

James H. Gale Interview

Page 3

Oswald's background he felt that Oswald might have had foreign intelligence connections - Soviet or Cuban - although none was ever found. He expressed dismay that critics have interpreted this sentence to refer to suspected or confirmed connections between Oswald and any U.S. intelligence agency. He admitted that this sentence is ambiguous, but he stated that it was irresponsible without even bothering to ask him to explain it.

Gale stated that he had no knowledge that Oswald was ever an FBI informant. He conceded, however, that his assignments connected with the assassination were limited and he did not review FBI field office files which could have contained information on this issue not maintained at headquarters. He stated that agents sometimes had "vest-pocket" informants which were never formally recorded. He also stated that, as alleged, it would have been possible for an FBI clerk to have checked file indices and found Oswald listed as an information source.

Gale did not know of any FBI employees who may have known about the destroyed Oswald letter, other than what has been publicly established. He had no knowledge about the Hosty notebook entry.